

THE
D U T Y
OF THE
RESPECTIVE OFFICERS
APPOINTED BY THE
C O U R T L E E T,
IN
The Manor of Birmingham.

B I R M I N G H A M:
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M, D C C, LXXXIX.



Manor of } *THE Court Leet, or View*
Birmingham. } *of Frank Pledge, with the Court*
Baron of the Right Honourable SARAH
LADY ARCHER, Lady of the said Manor,
holden in the Chamber over the Old Cross, in
Birmingham, on Wednesday the Twentieth Day
of October, in the Year of our Lord, 1779.

Before THOMAS LEE, Gentleman,
Steward.

The Jury, as well for the King as the Lady
of the Manor.

JOHN TAYLOR, Esq.

Mess. John Kettle, Esq.	} Sworn	George Humphrys	} Sworn
Joseph Wilkinfon		William Humphrys	
William Scott		Claud Johnson	
John Ryland		William Ryland	
Timothy Smith		Samuel Ryland	
Michael Lakin		Joseph Webster	
John Richards		Joseph Cotterell	
John Francis		William Dallaway	
John Rickards			
Benjamin May			

The Steward having given it in Charge to the
Jury, to make a Presentment of the Duty of the
respective Officers, elected and appointed by this
Court; the Jurors made the following Present-
ment thereof accordingly, viz.

The Office of High Bailiff.

I. **THE** Jury find and present, that this Officer is annually elected by the Jury ; and that it is his Duty to see that the Fairs be duly proclaimed, and that due Order be preserved in the Fairs and Markets ; and if he see any Persons in such Fairs or Markets, using Unlawful Games, to the Injury of Ignorant Persons, and thoughtless Youths, he may seize them and commit them to Custody, to be taken before a proper Magistrate.

II. That it is his Duty, to see that all Persons exposing any Wares to Sale in the Fairs or Markets, or as Shopkeepers within the Manor, have legal Weights and Measures.

III. That it is his Duty, to see that the Town has a Common Ballance with Common Weights, sealed according to the Standard of the Exchequer, at the Costs of the Town, at which Ballance all the Inhabitants may weigh gratis, but Strangers are to pay for every Draught within 40lb. a Farthing, and for every Draught betwixt 40lb. and 100lb. one Half-penny, from 100lb. to 1000lb. a Penny.

IV. That it is his Duty, to examine all Measures, and see that they be duly Gauged by the Standard, which he shall have out of the Exchequer, for which he is to be paid for Sealing a Bushel

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one Penny, for a Peck or half Peck one Half-penny, and for a Gallon or any less Measure, one Farthing; and any Person using any other Weight or Measure, is to forfeit Five Shillings, to be recovered before one Justice, or the Offender may be presented by the High Bailiff in the Lord's Leet, and be amerced by the Jury.

V. That it is his Duty, twice in the Year at least, to examine all Weights and Measures within the Manor, and such as he shall find defective, he is to cause to be broke or burnt, and the Offender is to pay Six Shillings and Eight-pence for the first Offence, Thirteen Shillings and Four-pence for the second, Twenty Shillings for the third Offence; and two Justices may determine these Offences.

VI. That it is his Duty, by the Custom of the Manor, to Seize for the Use of the Poor, all Butter and other Articles made up into Pounds, or any other certain Weight, ready for Sale, which on Examination he shall find deficient; and any Offenders in these Articles he may present at the next Court, to be amerced by the Jury.

The Office of Low Bailiff.

THE Jury find and present, that this Officer is annually elected by the Jury, and that his Office is in the Nature of Sheriff of the Manor, that
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to him all the Procefs of the Court is to be directed, and that it is his Right and Duty to return and fummon all Juries at this Court. And the Low Bailiff at each Fair is entitled to one Penny for each Stall or Standing pitched in the faid Fairs.

The Office of Constable.

THE Jury find and present, that these Officers are annually elected by the Jury; and their Duty is to suppress all Riots and Affrays within the Manor, to arrest all Felons, Night Walkers and suspicious Persons, which they may do of their own Authority: and they may charge and command any Person, to assist them in the Execution of their Office, if need require, and they are to be attendant upon the Justices of the Peace, and to execute their Warrants: and they have a power, by virtue of their Office, of Billetting the Officers and Soldiers, which they are to do fairly and impartially.

The Office of Headdborough.

THE Jury find and present, that this Officer is annually elected by the Jury, and is a Secondary Constable, and in the Absence or on the Death of the Constable, it is his Business, to do and execute the Duties of the Constable, and when required, he is personally to assist the Constable in preserving the Public Peace.

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The Office of Ale Conners, otherwise High Tasters.

THE Jury find and present, that these Officers are annually elected by the Jury; and their Duty is to see that all Publick Brewers and Ale Sellers within the Manor, do Brew good and wholesome Drink, and that they do not Use in Ale or Beer any Guinea Pepper, Coculus, Judiac, or any other unwholesome or intoxicating Ingredients: and for the purposes of these Assays, the Officers may at seasonable Times, demand of each Publick Brewer or Ale Seller, a reasonable Quantity of his Ale or Beer, and which the Jury Estimate at half a Pint Ale Measure. And these Officers are to present all Publick Brewers and all Ale Sellers, selling or exposing to Sale bad and unwholesome Drink; and all common Tiplers and Drinkers, and all Alehouse-keepers permitting unlawful Tipling or Gaming in their Houses by Apprentices or others.

The Office of Flesh Conners, otherwise Low Tasters.

THE Jury find and present, that these Officers are annually elected by the Jury; and their Duty is to see that all Butchers, Fishmongers, Poulterers, Bakers and others, Sellers of Victuals, do not sell or expose to Sale within this Manor, any unwholesome, corrupt, or contagious Flesh, Fish,

OR

or other Victuals: and in Case any such be exposed to Sale, we find that the said Officers by the ancient Custom of the Manor, may seize burn or destroy the same, or otherwise present the Offenders at the next Court Leet to be holden for this Manor.

The Office of Searchers, and Sealers of Leather.

THE Jury find and present, that these Officers are annually elected by the Jury; and that the Office is instituted by Act of Parliament, 1st. James 1st. Chap. 22: and their Duty is to search and view all Tanned Leather brought to Market, whether it is thoroughly tanned and dried; and if it is, they are to Seal the same; and they ought to be honest Men, and skilful in their Business, and they are to Search as often as they shall think good, or need shall be, and are to Seal what they find sufficient. And if they find any Leather offered to be Sold, or brought to be Sealed, which shall be insufficiently Tanned or Curried, or any Boots, Shoes, Bridles, or other Things made of Tanned or Curried Leather insufficiently tanned, curried or wrought, they may seize the same, and keep it till it can be tried by the Tryers, to be appointed as the Act directs. And they are to have a Seal of Office, and are to take no more than the old and accustomed Fee for sealing any Leather.

T H E E N D.

